

June 2007



Franklin County Public Safety
www.franklincountyva.org

FIRST DUE

Special points of interest:

- * COMMUNICATIONS CENTER
- * CONGRATULATIONS
- * EMAIL
- * OXYGEN EXCHANGE
- * IFLOWS
- * SMOKE DETECTORS
- * WATER SAFETY TIPS

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As we all know the first link in the emergency response system is the 9-1-1 center. The Franklin County 9-1-1 center is located in the Virgil Goode Building on East Court Street. Most of the time the center is staffed with between 2 and 4 telecommunicators who answer calls from citizens and numerous emergency units. As with any system there are at times failures in equipment due to malfunction of equipment and/or other causes such as storms. What many of you may not know is that the county also has a fully functional mobile communications center that has served many times in years passed when the primary center was down. As our county and public safety system continues to grow it has been determined that a back up fixed

site communications center was needed. I am pleased to say that after many months of meetings, planning and budgeting we now have a totally operational fixed backup communications center. This center is located inside the administration center just across the hall from the Emergency Operations Center. Inside this center we have room for 2 dispatchers, a high band digital radio, a low band radio, an encoding apparatus to be able to page out emergency units, computer with server and also voice over internet phones. In the future we are also looking at the possibility of locating a VGIN terminal inside this area also. Special thanks should go to the communications department, IT department and all others who help bring this new vital function to reality.



CONGRATULATIONS

We would like to offer congratulations to the following individuals who have advanced their training or had other special events occur. First of all congratulations to station 2 members Taw and Stephanie Hodges on the recent birth of their son. Also Rena Jennings

from station 9 was recently recognized as "Field Preceptor of the Year" for the Jefferson College of Health Sciences. She competed against preceptors in Roanoke City, Roanoke County, Salem City to win this award. Also Geoff Tuck from station 8 re-

cently completed the Bob Page 12 lead EKG program. Whitney James Station 7, Jake Flournoy company 9 and Jessica Rakes recently became new EMT's from the daytime high school class conducted at the training center.

DID YOU KNOW?

Franklin County Public Safety provides an incentive for volunteer personnel to actively seek and obtain minimum EMS and Fire training by offering a \$150.00 one time stipend for obtaining EMT-B and/or Firefighter I training. To be eligible for the stipend an individual must be a current, active member in a volunteer agency operating in Franklin County and must provide documentation of successful completion of the designated course. In order to receive the stipend an individual must provide a request in writing within 90 days of receiving the

certification to the Public Safety Administration office that they desire the stipend and that must also state that they are willing to serve the county for a period of two years. A copy of the certification signed by the Captain or Chief must also be presented. After proper documentation has been received in the administration offices, a check will be issued in the following County accounts payable cycle.



**Progress always
involves risk; you
can't steal second
base and keep
your foot on first.**

-Frederick Wilcox

OXYGEN EXCHANGE

As many of you know we currently store our large Oxygen Cylinders for on-board use at the County Administration in the rear parking lot. In order to make exchanging of oxygen easier for the squads and for reordering, over the next couple of weeks the cylinders will be moved to the Public Safety Administration at 1488 Franklin Street. The cylinders will be located behind the offices in the rear parking

lot attached to one of the utility sheds. By doing this it will allow exchanging out of cylinders easier and safer since most of the exchanging takes place at night and the rear of the building has lots of lighting. Also please take note that we have a specific amount of oxygen available and we know that crews like to keep extra cylinders on hand at the station so you don't have to make so many trips. But, by the

taking of to many cylinders for your personal surplus takes away from the number that is on hand for exchange. We place an order every week and there should always be oxygen available at the public safety office. If you have any questions please contact he on duty career Captain.

IFLOWS

You have probably saw them in your travels around the county, those round devices near the road about 8 foot tall with an antenna on the top. Riding past you most likely were curious as to what these were. Well they are part of the Intergraded Flood Observing and Warning System. These are used to monitor rain levels by the National Weather Service. If you are interested you can check the amount of rainfall at anytime in the county by

going to the Public Safety web site at www.franklincountyva.org. If you click on the IFLOWS link you can see the rainfall in real time. The gauges in Franklin County are located on Maggoodee Creek, Simmonds Gap, Black water/Callaway, Gills Creek, Adney Gap, Route 640/Pigg River, Ferrum, Rocky Mount/Pigg River, Snow Creek/Route 632. If you have never saw the gauges the easiest one to view is located in the Veteran's Memorial Park

in Rocky Mount near the rivers edge.



FIRE/EMS STATION EMAIL ADDRESSES

As part of the overall communications upgrades that have been going on for the last couple of years at this time I am excited to announce that all Franklin County Fire and EMS stations now have a county email address. This will greatly improve communications between stations and between administration and stations. The following is a list of ALL station email addresses:

Squad 2, SD2@franklincountyva.org,
 Squad 3, SD3@franklincountyva.org,
 Squad 4, SD4@franklincountyva.org,
 Squad 5, SD5@franklincountyva.org,
 Squad 6, SD6@franklincountyva.org,

Squad 8, SD8@franklincountyva.org,
 Squad 9, SD9@franklincountyva.org,
 Squad 10, SD10@franklincountyva.org,
 Squad 13, SD13@franklincountyva.org,
 Department, CD1@franklincountyva.org,
 Company 3, CD3@franklincountyva.org
 Company 4, CD4@franklincountyva.org
 Company 5, CD5@franklincountyva.org
 Company 6, CD6@franklincountyva.org
 Company 7, CD7@franklincountyva.org
 Company 8, CD8@franklincountyva.org
 Company 9, CD9@franklincountyva.org
 Company 10, CD10@franklincountyva.org
 Company 13, CD13@franklincountyva.org
 Company

14, C14@franklincountyva.org.
 These email address can be accesses from any location that has internet and they are on a secured site. The Captain or Chief has been given the user passwords and can distributed as they see fit.

EMS WEEK CELEBRATION A SUCCESS

On May 21st, Franklin County Public Safety and Carilion Health Systems co-sponsored a Volunteer Celebration Event in conjunction with National EMS Week. The event was held at Waid Recreation Area and included delicious barbecue from Olde Virginia Barbecue, refreshing ice cream from Homestead Creamery, and personalized "Emergency Medical Services Week" cake. Also, each of the approximately

125 volunteers that attended received gift certificates to McDonald's and the Eagle Cinema, in addition to, a "Volunteer Celebration Day '07" t-shirt and other gifts. Thank you for coming out and making this year's event a success. If you have any ideas for next year's event or other events, please contact Michael Pruitt, at michaelp Pruitt@franklincountyva.org.



**Make
preparations in
advance. You
never have
trouble if you are
prepared.**

-Teddy Roosevelt

SMOKE DETECTORS AVAILABLE

The Franklin County Department of Public Safety still has smoke detectors available for citizens in your response area who cannot afford to purchase one. The detectors are free of charge and can be installed by the career division if requested by the citizen. If you know anyone in your area or if you respond to a location that does not have a smoke detector please have them contact our office and talk to Bennie Russell. The citizen

must own the property and it cannot be rental property. It is the responsibility of the property owner to install detectors on rental property. The detectors were made available to Franklin County Public Safety through a Department of Fire Programs grant program. Bennie can be contacted at 483-3091.





Franklin County Public Safety

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Franklin County's Department of Public Safety is dedicated to providing emergency services, to include, but not limited to, Fire, EMS, Animal Control and Emergency Management that are, Delivered in a timely and efficient manner by well-trained and dedicated career and volunteer professionals.

WATER SAFETY TIPS

As summer approaches all public safety units are gearing up for an increase in water based emergencies. In this article we will be reviewing some tips courtesy of the American Red Cross. Learn to swim. The best thing anyone can do to stay safe in and around water is to learn to swim. Always swim with a buddy; never swim alone. The American Red Cross has swimming courses for people of all age and swimming ability. Contact the local Red Cross at 483-5621 for more information. Swim in areas supervised by a lifeguard. Read and obey all rules and posted signs. Children or inexperienced swimmers should take precautions, such as wearing USCG

approved PFD's when around the water. Watch out for the dangerous "too's"—to tired, to cold, to far from safety, to much sun, to much strenuous activity. Set water safety rules for the entire family based on swimming ability. Be knowledgeable of the water environment you are in and its potential hazards, such as deep and shallow water, currents, depth changes and where entry and exit points are located. Pay attention to local weather conditions and forecasts. Stop swimming at the first indication of bad weather. Use a feet-first entry when entering the water. Do not mix alcohol with swimming, diving or boating. Alcohol impairs your

judgment, balance, and coordination, affects your swimming and diving skills, and reduces your body's ability to stay warm. Know how to prevent, recognize, and respond to emergencies.

